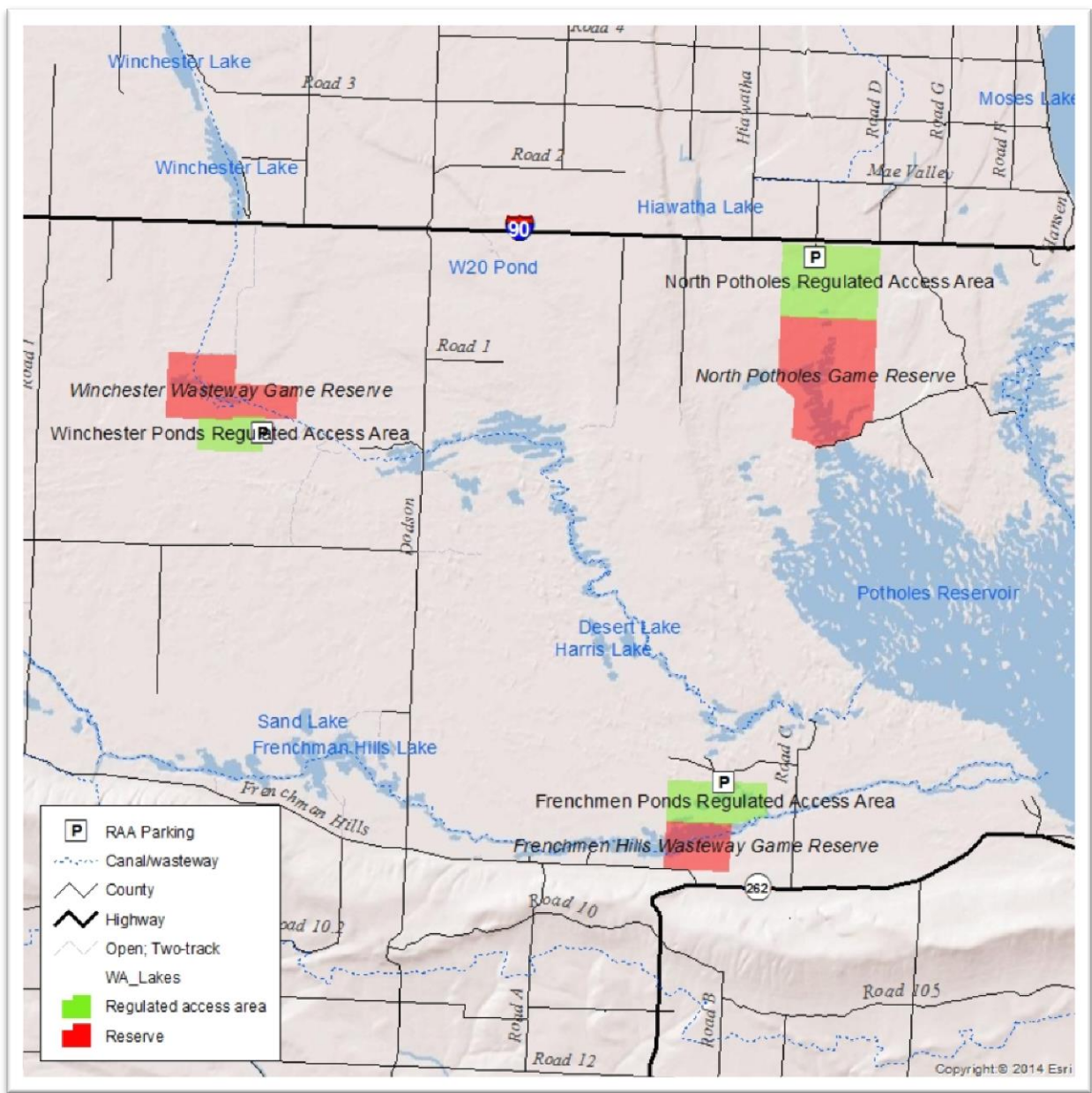


The Ephrata District provides three quality hunt areas for waterfowl by restricting access to reduce crowding, reducing daily hunting pressure to increase waterfowl use and harvest rates, and by locating the access areas in the vicinity of game reserves to give hunters abundant opportunities to decoy birds. Each of these areas are managed a little differently so this document serves to provide information necessary to hunt these areas legally and effectively. The map below shows the distribution of the access areas and location of adjacent game reserves; the sites are in Grant County, between the towns of Moses Lake and George. The following restrictions and descriptions are specific to the 2015-16 hunting season.



Winchester Ponds Regulated Access Area

Access

Access is allowed on Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday, and Management Area 4 goose hunting days during the youth hunt and regular waterfowl season. All visitors using the area must register and park in the designated parking lot located on the eastern boundary of the property. Parking is limited to 5 vehicles. Vehicles are not allowed in the parking lot before 4:00 a.m.

Description

The Winchester Ponds Regulated Access Area (established in 2007) is located just south of the Winchester Reserve. Winchester Reserve typically hosts from 10,000 to 30,000 mallards throughout the majority of the waterfowl season. Ponds typically remain open until mid- to late-November when temperatures drop into the low 20's overnight. The area is typically frozen solid during December and January.

Five hunting blinds have been constructed for convenience but hunting from these blinds is not required. Blinds will need to be maintained by hunters and will likely require fresh vegetation which can be collected on site. Approximate blind and parking lot location can be found in the map below. Blinds were built to accommodate four hunters; seating not provided. Cover for concealment is limited, hunters should consider using layout blinds or hunting from the blinds provided.

Hunting Outside of the General Waterfowl Season

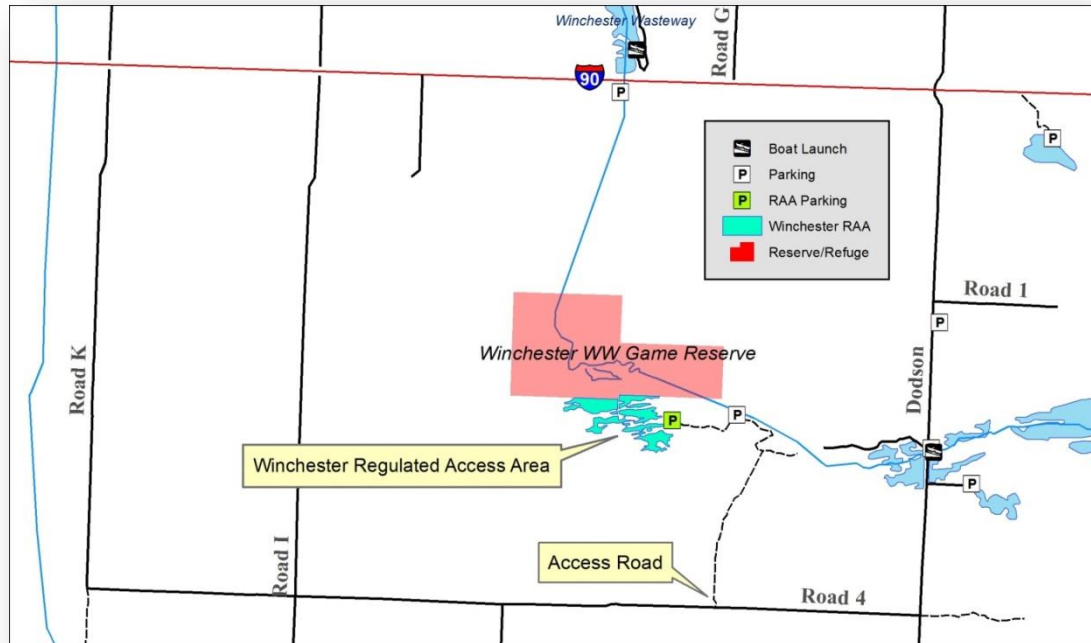
Hunting is allowed without reservation and registration is not required outside of the general waterfowl season. This area may or may not be flooded for early goose and the youth season so call the WDFW regional office at 509-754-4624 for an update.

Online Reservation/Registration Requirements

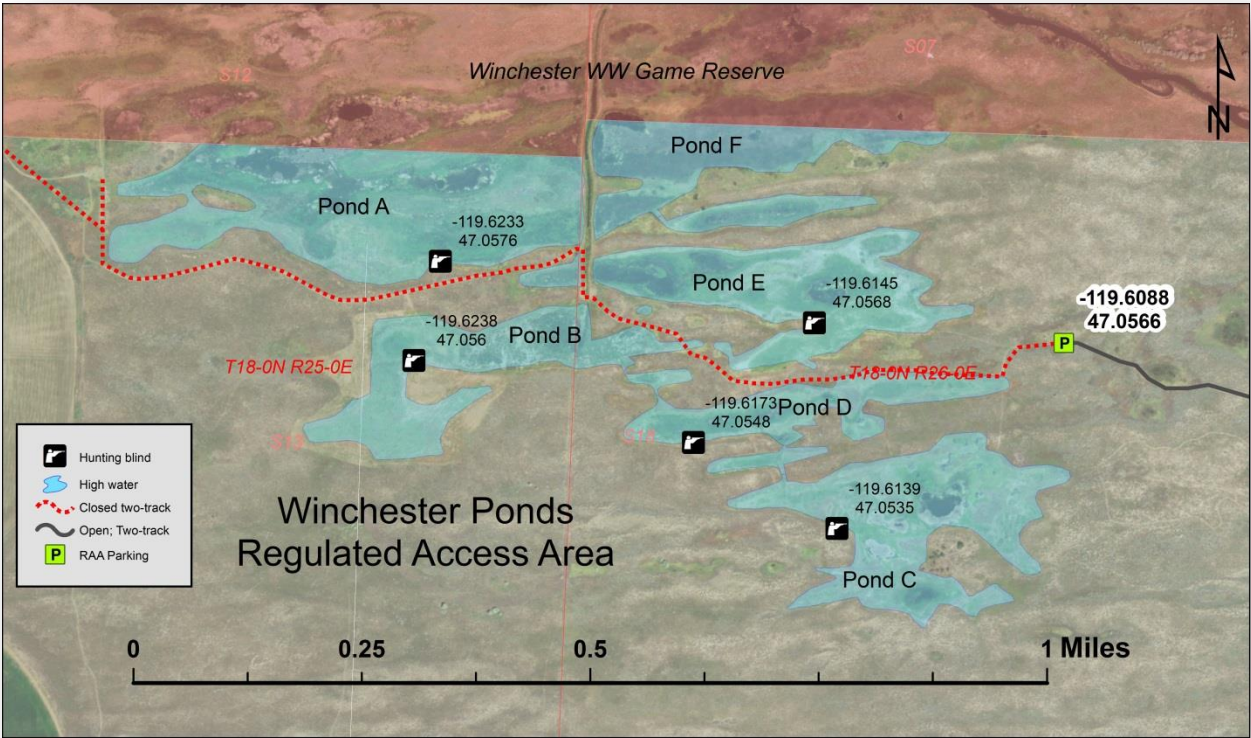
Reservations are no longer required and the area is open on a first-come first-served basis.

Directions

From the Junction of I-90 and Dodson Road, travel south on Dodson Road to Road 4 SW. Turn Right (west) on Road 4 SW and go 2 miles to the Power Station and turn Right (north) onto the gravel road. Continue north approximately 3.5 miles until reaching a 'Y' in the road, proceed left. Continue along this road until you reach the designated parking area.



Note: This access route is a two-track road through sand dunes and may require 4wd vehicles during dry conditions (soft sand during dry conditions) or during snow (deep snow drifts possible).



Winchester Ponds Regulated Access Area Map.

Frenchmen Ponds Regulated Access Area

Access

Access is allowed on Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday, and Management Area 4 goose hunting days during the youth hunt and regular waterfowl season. All visitors using the area must register and park in the designated parking lot. Parking is limited to 5 vehicles plus two spots specifically for disabled (ADA) hunters from the east access route (See Access Area Map below). Vehicles are not allowed into the parking lot before 4:00 a.m.

Description

The Frenchmen Ponds Regulated Access Area (established in 2007) is located just north of the Frenchmen Hills Wasteway Game Reserve. The Frenchmen Hills Wasteway Game Reserve typically hosts several thousand mallards throughout the majority of the waterfowl season. Ponds typically remain open until mid- to late-November when temperatures drop into the low 20's overnight. The area is typically frozen solid during December and January but because the project is a flow-through system, a limited amount of open water can be maintained at times. This site is limited to 5 vehicles with an additional 2 ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) sites for disabled hunters. Parking spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Disabled hunters can request a key from the Ephrata Regional Office to drive to the ADA blinds.

One permanent hunting blind exists on this site in the approximate center of cell 7.

Hunting Outside of the General Waterfowl Season

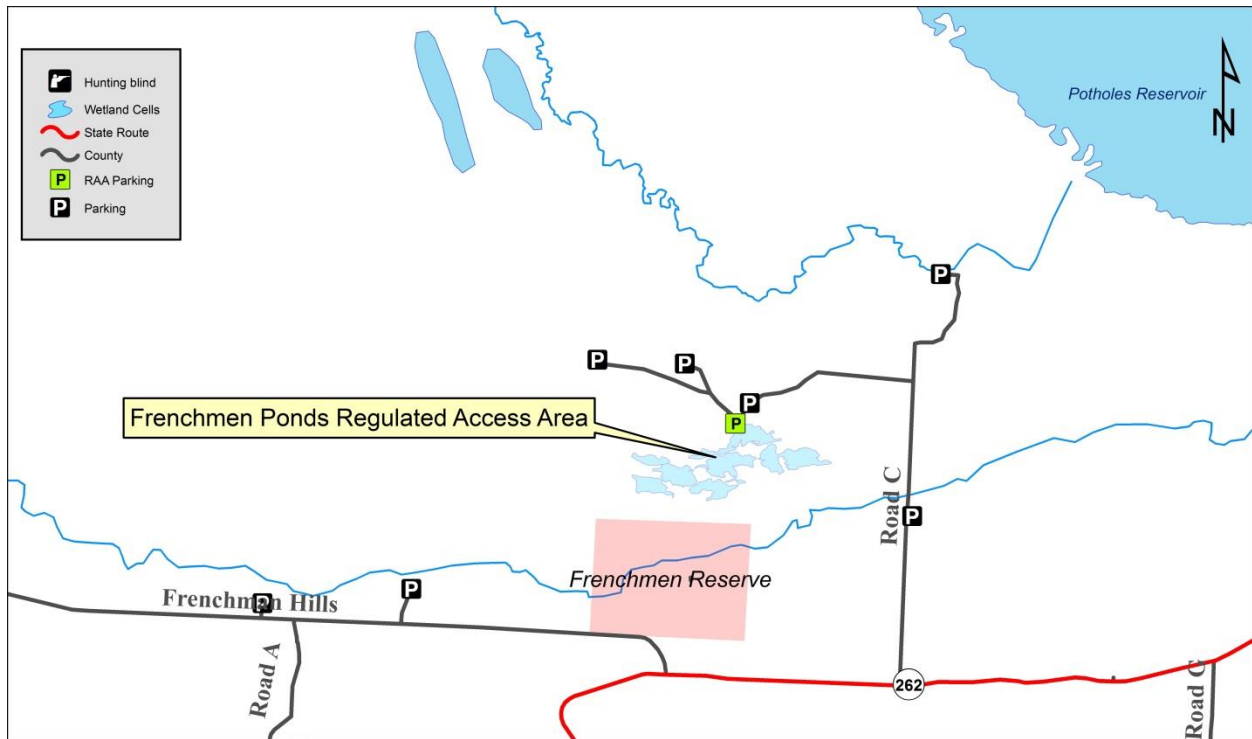
Hunting is allowed without reservation and registration is not required outside of the general waterfowl season. This area is typically not flooded for the early goose or youth seasons.

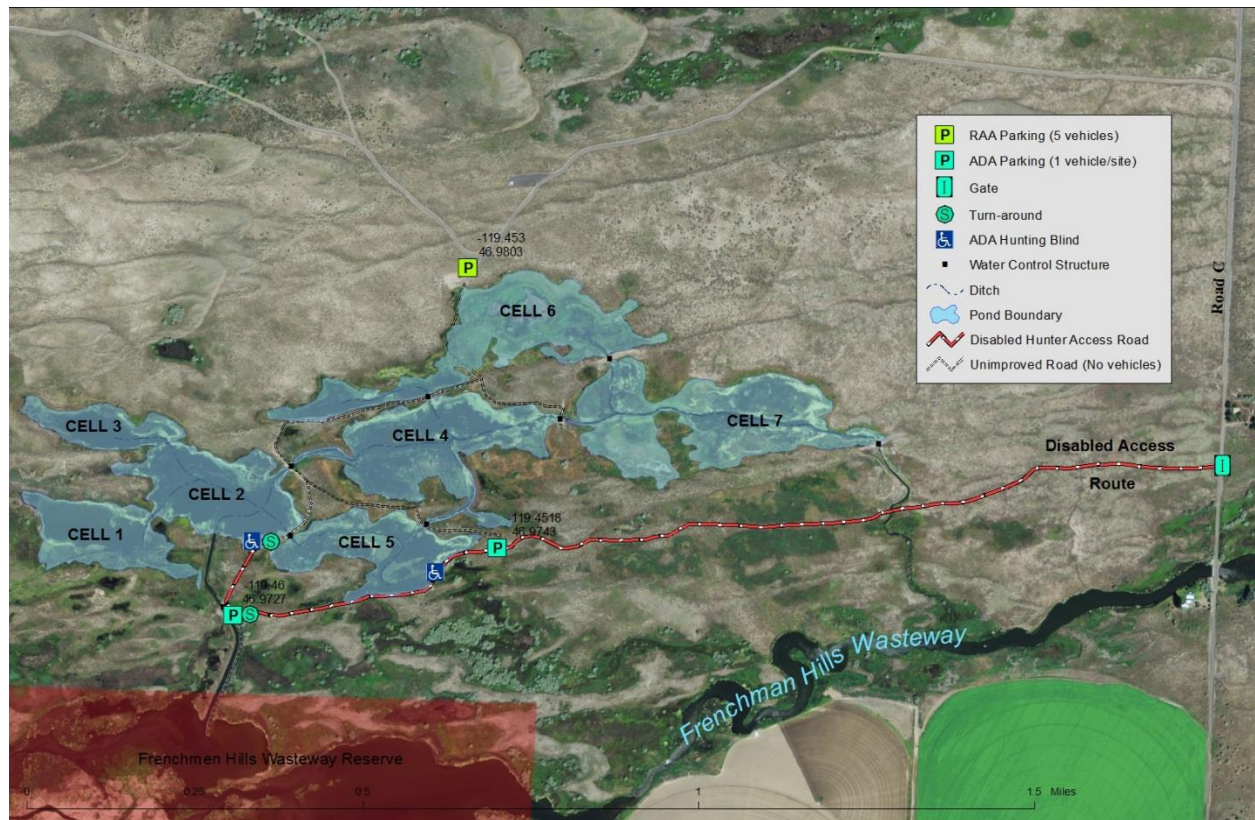
Online Reservation/Registration Requirements

Reservations are not required to hunt this area. All parties must register at the registration box in the parking lot during the general waterfowl season.

Directions

From the Junction of I-90 and Dodson Road, travel south on Dodson Road to Frenchmen Hills Road. Turn Left (east) on Frenchmen Hills Road and proceed for approximately 5 miles until reaching O'Sullivan Dam Road (Hwy 262). Proceed East on 262 for approximately 1.5 miles to Road C SE. Turn Left (north) on Road C SE and proceed approximately 2 miles and turn left (west). Proceed for approximately 0.6 miles and the designated parking area will be on the left (south).





Frenchmen Ponds Regulated Access Area Map.

North Potholes Regulated Access Area

Access

Access is allowed on Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday, and Management Area 4 goose hunting days during the youth and regular waterfowl season. All visitors using the area must register and park in the designated parking lot located on the northern boundary of the property, just off of the I-90 south frontage road. Online reservations are required to use a parking spot prior to 9 a.m. from opening weekend of the general season through November (see: wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/hunting_access/private_lands/); after 9 a.m. all unused parking spots are available to drop in hunters on allowed hunt days described above. Parking is limited to 5 vehicles. Vehicles are not allowed in the parking lot before 4:00 a.m.

Description

The North Potholes Regulated Access Area (established in 2015) is located just north of the North Potholes Game Reserve. This site consists of ponds that receive relatively low use by waterfowl but occur directly under a major flightpath for mallards feeding in Hiawatha Valley, thus during the right conditions (i.e. fog, wind) harvest rates are expected to be high. The North Potholes Game Reserve typically hosts 20,000-30,000 mallards throughout the majority of the waterfowl season.

During the early season, the ponds are typically very low and some may even be dry. Because these ponds occur within the higher elevations of Potholes Reservoir, and because they are hydrologically separated by sand dunes, there is considerable lag between the filling of Potholes Reservoir and these ponds. Significant filling may not be noticeable until late-November or even December depending on reservoir operations beyond WDFW control. Ponds are expected to remain open until mid- to late-November when temperatures drop into the low 20's overnight. Winter aerial survey flights show that these ponds will freeze early (typically frozen solid during December and January). This site is limited to 5 vehicles.

Thick willows surround the ponds in this area and blinds are not likely needed. Hunting site locations are listed in the table below; hunters must hunt within 50m (approximately 50 paces) of these designated sites.

Parking/Designated Hunt Site	<u>WGS 84</u>		<u>NAD83 Zone 11</u>	
	Latitude	Longitude	X UTM	Y UTM
Parking 1/Pond 1	47.0933	-119.4339	315289	5218402
Parking 2/Pond 2	47.0923	-119.4298	315594	5218283
Parking 3/Pond 3	47.0895	-119.4254	315917	5217967
Parking 4/Pond 4	47.0878	-119.4244	315987	5217771
Parking 5/Pond 5	47.0867	-119.4211	316236	5217647

Hunting Outside of the General Waterfowl Season

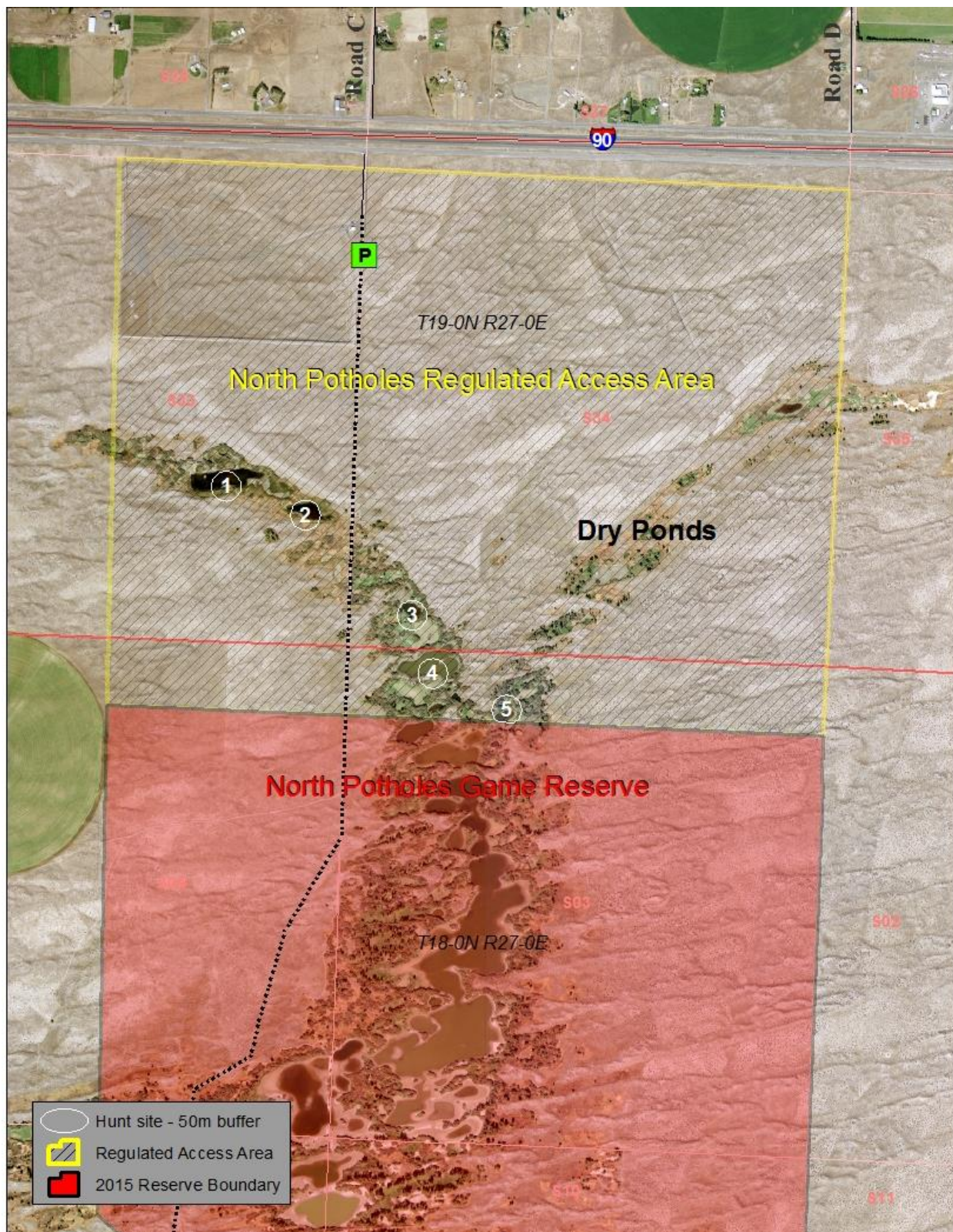
Hunting is allowed without reservation and registration is not required outside of the general waterfowl season. This area should have huntable water during the early goose and/or youth seasons but water levels are influenced by water surface elevation of Potholes Reservoir and may vary from year to year.

Online Reservation/Registration Requirements

Reservations will be required to hunt this area from Opening Day through November 30; however, parking spots that are empty after 9 am are open to drop-ins for the remainder of the hunt day. Reservations/Parking Spots will correspond to designated hunting locations within the project area (see map below). Waterfowl hunters must be within a specified distance (to be determined; likely 50m) of designated hunting locations. All parties (reservations and drop-ins) must register at the registration box in the parking lot during the general waterfowl season.

Directions

From Moses Lake area travel west on I-90 to Exit 174 and get on South Frontage road heading west. Continue 4.0 miles west on South Frontage Road and turn left (south) on Road C NE. Parking area is 0.2 mile from I-90 on Road C NE.



North Potholes Regulated Access Area Map.